

# Idaho Trade Token Newsletter

**Boise, Idaho**

**July, 1997**

**Volume 1, Number 7**

## News

Another busy month! The only county courthouse I visited this month was Valley County's in Cascade on a trip retrieving the kids from summer camp in McCall. My older daughter, Marylee, and Ron Haberman's daughter Kristen were counselors at the camp - they have been going there for a number of years - and my younger daughter, Elizabeth, was a camper. In the courthouse, I found a type of record which was new to me, a record of slot machine taxes paid for the years 1949-1952. For instance, the Bradley Mining Company's Stibnite Recreation Club in Stibnite paid \$250 for five machines for six months. In the spring of 1950, there were 32 licensed machines in 9 businesses in McCall. If memory serves me, slot machines were a local option during this time, so not all counties would have this type of record.

Kendall Ballard said he got the cold shoulder from the Fremont County people in St. Anthony, but Dean Rasmussen had some luck there later. I have had success by explaining that I was doing historical research and was looking for early license records. In almost every case the clerk has denied having any such information, but invited me into the vault to look for myself. And I have found something of interest in all of them.

## Auctions

Greg Manos and Dean Rasmussen ganged up on an auction in Pocatello earlier this month. They came out well by not bidding against each other, and made a split of the tokens. There were some nice ones and at least one previously unknown piece from Pocatello.

I saw an ad in the newspaper for an auction in Hammett selling the estate of Bert Waller who owned Waller's Pastime. There were several items included from his tavern, including some unused punchboards. There is a strong possibility that there were tokens there; did any of you get to go?

Dan Lute called me recently about a similar auction in Pioneerville. It was the estate of Paul Poncia, who owned the Pioneer dancehall and tavern. I did go to this one, as did Dan and Rudy and Sandy Burns. Dan tells me that there were actually a few (common) tokens in a display case - I missed seeing them and left early. It would have been a likely spot to find a token from Pioneerville, though. Here's a shot of Dan standing behind the bar. On the wall on his left were beer licenses from the 20's and 30's. Somebody stole them, though, during the auction.



## The Get-Together

Somebody had better come up with a better name for this occasion! How about "The First Annual All-Idaho Token Conflab"? No, on second thought...

We have arranged for a meeting room at the Holiday Inn / Airport in Boise for Saturday evening, July 26. I don't have the name of the room at this writing, but it is listed under "Idaho Token Collectors", and the front desk should be able to direct you. If you want to stay there, call 1-800-HOLIDAY to make reservations. Ask for the Idaho token collector group rate, but I have not yet confirmed that we can, indeed, get a group rate. There are Super 8, Motel 6, and several other budget motels within a mile of the Holiday Inn, which is located on Vista Avenue, just north of the freeway and the airport. The Holiday Inn has an indoor pool, spa, and recreation area, and this area has easy access to downtown (just follow Vista until it turns into Capitol Boulevard) and the Boise Towne Square Mall.

Everybody meet in front of the Idaho Historical Museum, just inside Julia Davis Park, north of where Capitol Boulevard crosses the Boise River, at 9:00 a.m., Saturday, July 26. While we have a short introductory session to plan the logistics and van-pool arrangements for the rest of the day, the rest of your families can decide whether to come along or stay in Boise. At about 10:00 we will caravan out Warm Springs Avenue toward Idaho City, stopping at several points of interest along the way. We will have a picnic lunch in the Idaho City park and spend a while touring the town and Boise Basin Museum. For this trip, everyone bring along their Boise Basin tokens, postcards, and whatever else you may have from Idaho City, Centerville, Diana, Placerville, and Quartzburg. Who knows, we may meet the proverbial old timer who is interested and has a bag full of tokens for us.

Next we will leave the Mores Creek drainage and go to the Grimes Creek drainage by way of the Centerville Road. There is not much left of old Centerville – it is a residential area now, but we can find the site. Placerville is a nice "ghost town" and we can visit the museum there which is housed in the old Magnolia Saloon and in the Boise Basin Mercantile store. The Placerville cemetery is a nice old "boot hill" and one can see the graves of token issuer J. J. Brogan, early brewery owner Charles Kohny, the father of Boise clothing merchant Albert Kohny, and the Coughanour family of Quartzburg and Payette.

The townsite of Quartzburg is privately-owned and the road leading into it has been blocked off for decades. I am not sure how much of it is still standing, but I did track down the owner and wrote him requesting permission to visit the site. Hopefully he will agree to let us in. If he does agree, he has been invited to accompany us. This may be the chance of a lifetime to see what is left of this ghost town.

We will leave Quartzburg and retrace our path to new Centerville and then down Grimes Creek and back to Boise. After dinner, we will convene at the Holiday Inn meeting room and spend the rest of the evening swapping lies, tokens, and whatever else we want. At this point, the planned events are done; if there is interest on Sunday, we could take in the Boise Tour Train, the Idaho State Museum, or whatever else you want.

## **More Mavericks Needing Help**

Here are some more mavericks in the continuing series of ones which have been attributed, but for which I cannot find a directory listing, etc. Please help if you can.

VAN'S PLACE / KENDRICK

L & W / KENDRICK

HINKEY'S / MERIDIAN / POOL HALL (Listed in Erickson's Pierce County, WA book)

H & M STORE 20 (Nampa?)

CANTON CAFE (Shoshone)

FRANK'S SMOKE HOUSE (Shoshone)

J. OSA (Shoshone, but later deleted by Schell)

VALLEY CAFE (Valley)

T. W. P. / RIGBY / SALOON (Rigby)

## **Rudy and Sandy Burns**

Rudy and Sandy started an antique business about 20 years ago, buying material at garage sales and auctions and selling at area flea markets. Soon they became interested in Idaho memorabilia and started collecting that as well. At a yard sale one day, Sandy found a cigar box full of 300 or so tokens. It was dark and hard to see, but she saw lots of them from Idaho, Nevada, and Utah – towns she had never heard of. Thinking they were neat, she bought 3 or 4 Idaho ones at 25¢ each and took them home to show Rudy. Over supper they decided that they were very interesting, so they returned to the sale. Of course, they were gone by that time: the "big one that got away!" So, after that, they started asking at flea markets and other likely spots and have built a nice token collection.

The Burnses are cataloguing Idaho stoneware advertising jugs, and request listings (Polaroid photos would be dandy) of anything in this field. Please write or call them to help with this project:

Rudy & Sandy Burns  
1238 Eagle Hills Way  
Eagle, ID 83616  
(208) 939-0407

## **So, Why Green?**

So, why do I print this newsletter on green paper? And why don't I use mailing labels instead of window envelopes? Ever notice the fine print on the bottom of the first page? This may be a small thing, but it is covered by a copyright. I don't mind sharing it with others, but I certainly don't want to find people photocopying it and passing it around. The color and name printed on the newsletter is intended to discourage copying.

## **Horace N. Roberts**

Much sport is made of the stock of today's "drug" store – it oftentimes ranges from appliances to garden supplies with the pharmacy occupying only a small area of the store. This same diversity of wares was often present in the "confectionery" store of yesterday. When Horace N. Roberts bought out the confectionery business of T. P. Lorang in Kendrick, he added a candy kitchen to supplement the "soup to nuts" stock already carried by Lorang.

"The Best of Everything," advertised Lorang. He offered "candies, nuts and sweets, cigars, pipes, tobaccos, hot drinks of all kinds, oyster cocktails and everything in season, and a full line of lunch goods" in his last advertisement in the January 3, 1913 Kendrick Gazette. Roberts soon added postcards, magazines, ice cream, and bouillon, making his new business a completely stocked oasis.

Indeed the confectionery was often the local men's hangout rather than the children's favorite store. When the "Great Experiment" of prohibition visited itself upon small towns, saloon keepers quit selling alcoholic beverages (at least openly) and specialized in what had earlier been secondary goods. Their stores became soft drink parlors, cigar stores, confectioneries, or the like, but they still retained their old customers. After all, the menfolk still needed a gathering place to discuss the issues of the day.

H. N. Roberts came to Kendrick from New Westminster, British Columbia in 1912. As the Kendrick Gazette noted, "Mr. Roberts has moved his family here and become one of us. He is a candy maker by trade and has several years experience in the confectionery business." He purchased the business stock of Lorang's Confectionery on January 7, 1913 and immediately started remodeling the interior of the building. He operated his business there, offering seasonal treats in addition to his normal fare, until 1917.



I only found this business listed in two of the normal sources. The 1914 Bradstreet Directory lists "H. N. Roberts - confec" and the 1916 Idaho State Gazetteer shows "Horace N. Roberts - cigars". There were no cemetery records to help in Kendrick, so I started reading the weekly Kendrick Gazette in 1913. Fortunately, the article about Roberts buying out Lorang was in the third issue I read. And luckily, Roberts was a fairly regular advertiser in the paper, so it was easy to track his business. The last ad for the Roberts Confectionery was in the July 20, 1917 issue. No news item explaining the stoppage of the ads was printed for some time before or after that date, so I am at a loss to know for sure what happened. a small item in the April 28, 1916 issue said "H. N. Roberts went to Lewiston on the night train Monday to look after business interests," so I will continue my search for him in Lewiston.

The token itself is a plain-looking 21mm brass piece, and just reads "H. N. R. / KENDRICK / IDAHO". It is listed as #KEN-8, and I know of only two examples.

## Contribute!

I really appreciate those of you who contribute items for this newsletter. It makes for more interest all around, don't you think? For those of you who have not, please consider sharing your knowledge with the rest of us. I do have a lot of research notes, but I really never thought I would have to fill up 5½ pages of my own writing for the newsletter.

## Frank S. Stevens, New Plymouth Merchant

As it is today, competition was stiff among early day mercantile stores. Some businesses continued for many years, while others modified their product lines to satisfy a certain segment of the market and many changed hands or even closed due to competition. All of the general stores had one type of competitor in common: the tempting catalogs of the mail order houses siphoned away enough business from the hometown stores to cause the local owners to advertise heavily the benefits of local purchasing. Newspaper editors joined in the efforts to urge patronization of hometown businesses. Of course this kept the community's economy alive and allowed a certain amount of credit to be extended by the shopkeepers. As one editor pointed out, the mail order concerns would not support local churches and schools, they did not pay local taxes to help improve the roads, and they could not give credit when crops failed.



Frank S. Stevens, pioneer merchant of New Plymouth, was one to advertise the benefits of local buying. His ads in the New Plymouth newspapers regularly stated that he could meet the mail order competition. Stevens opened his store in 1903 and soon was appointed Postmaster, replacing the Misses Jennie Stovel and Emma Veazey. Stevens carried the usual wide stock of a general store – groceries, dry goods, and hardware. In 1904 his business came to be called the Post Office Store, and in 1904 he ordered the 20mm brass tokens as shown. It is listed as #NEP-8, and is only known in this one 5¢ example. Surely there are higher denominations out there! If one were putting together a topical collection of Idaho dated tokens, this one would be one of the keys as it is the only 1904 token known.

Frank Stevens chose to specialize in order to survive the competition presented by the other New Plymouth merchants and the catalog firms. By 1910 his business was limited to boots and shoes plus the Post Office and a full line of souvenir postcards. At the time he was the town's only full line shoe shop.

The New Plymouth Sentinel of April 18, 1912 announced that H. H. Hamilton had purchased Stevens' entire stock and would continue the business in the same location. Hamilton came from Meadville, Pennsylvania upon the recommendation of his brothers-in-law P. M. Smock and Louis Wachter, both prominent New Plymouth businessmen. On July 4, 1912, the Sentinel reported that Hamilton had gotten his appointment as Postmaster to succeed Stevens. "Ex-Postmaster Stevens will leave this week for the Pacific Coast where he will spend the summer after serving New Plymouth nine years as Postmaster with great satisfaction to the people."

When Stevens returned to New Plymouth in October of 1912, he traded his Main Street store building to Reverend H. F. Knight of the New Plymouth Congregational Church for a 160-acre farm near Greeley, Colorado and shortly left New Plymouth.

## Idaho Covers

Since many of us collect other Idahoiana, bring that to the July get-together to share and trade. Covers, which are postal envelopes, can be collected in many flavors. Some collect them for the advertising content of the printed return address, others collect the stamps and/or postmark attached, and so on. This month, check out the newsletter envelope for an Idaho collectible. The Boise River Festival has been held on the last Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday in June for the past 7 years, but only for the past few have I noticed that the Postal Service has a kiosk. There they sell the ever-increasing line of postal merchandise like T-shirts, mugs, and pins. But they also have a special cancel stamp made for each of the four days and sell packets of stamped covers with the River Festival Post Office cancellation. I am taking this mailing there to get this cancellation for you (and will use a plain envelope), but some of them may get a second cancellation somewhere else in the postal system. I hope not!

Best,

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